

a²
cont.

(b) hybridizes under stringent conditions with wash conditions of 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof.

Please add new Claims 5-8 as follows:

5. (NEW) A recombinant expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

a³

6. (NEW) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 5.

7. (NEW) A recombinant expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

8. (NEW) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 7.

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 5-8 have been added. Applicants submit that Claims 5-8 are properly classified into the same class and subclass and are therefore proper. Claims 1-8 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and a marked-up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

II. Support for the Amended Claim

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the claim. Amendment of Claim 1 finds support in Claim 1 and throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least on page 8 line 24.